(c) whether the proposed improvement would offer involvement and upfront subsidy;

(d) whether, under order of PM a joint study group of Agriculture and Finance Ministry has been set up; and

(e) if so, the details of recommendations and other suggestions made by this group and the step being considered to implement these suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) (a) to (e) Budget announcement for 2004-05 of the Union Government provides for re-designing of the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) so as to make the scheme more attractive to the farmers. A Joint Group has been set up to study the improvements required in the existing Crop Insurance Schemes. The terms of reference of the Group *interalia* include an assessment of up-front subsidy, if any, to be paid by the Government. The Group is yet to submit its report.

Central Law on Cow Slaughter

†870. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 585 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th July, 2003 and state:

(a) by when Government will bring the Central law to ban the slaughtering of cows in view of strong respect and keeping the sentiments of people of country towards "Gomata", and

(b) the reasons for the delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA) (a) Most States in the country have legislation banning cow slaughter as it is a State Subject.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.